

to the cause has helped secure for Ocean Spray a position of prestige among American corporations, and surely secured for him an honored place in the history of Ocean Spray, the cranberry industry and American business.

RECOGNIZING MS. CLAUDIA ALVAREZ FOR HER THIRD-PLACE FINISH IN A NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Ms. Claudia Alvarez, whose essay on bilingual education won a third-place prize in a prestigious national essay contest sponsored by Scholastic, Inc., an educational publishing company.

Claudia's essay, "Estoy Orgullosa de Ser Bilingüe" ("I'm Proud To Be Bilingual"), very eloquently extols the virtues and enrichment of bilingualism from her personal perspective.

Claudia wrote her essay last year as a 5th-grade student at San Antonio School, located in the 16th Congressional District of California.

More than 40,000 students nationwide participated in the essay contest. Claudia's third-place finish earned her a \$1,000 educational grant from Scholastic, Inc., which was matched with a grant from New Star, an educational testing company. In addition, Claudia has been honored by the California Association of Bilingual Teachers at its recent convention in San Jose, California and was flown to Dallas, Texas with her teacher, Ms. Norma Rodriguez, to be honored by the National Association of Bilingual Teachers.

In its March 4, 1998, issue *La Oferta Review*, a bilingual newspaper serving Silicon Valley, published Claudia's essay in English and Spanish.

Claudia's outstanding achievement is indicative of the potential of our young people when provided with the proper educational tools.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievement of Ms. Claudia Alvarez.

[From *La Oferta Review*, Mar. 4, 1998]

I'M PROUD TO BE BILINGUAL

(By Claudia Alvarez)

I'm proud to be bilingual because that is who I am. I'm proud to be bilingual because my first language, Spanish in my mother tongue. It is the heritage from my ancestors. I'm proud to be bilingual because it is a privilege. When you speak one language well, you may feel like you are holding the world in your hands.

Those of us who speak two languages is like holding two worlds full of opportunities. Being Bilingual is like living in two rich exciting worlds, which one does not take over the other. Instead, they complement each other. Being bilingual opens more doors to the way of success. Also being bilingual is like having double brain capacity, because I can communicate my feelings, my fears, and dreams in more than one way. Being Bilingual is having double opportunities to communicate these dreams. To be able to speak

two languages, is like living in two worlds full of surprises, adventures, and lots of promises for a brighter future. I'm proud to speak English because it is the language I learned at school. It is the heritage I received from the educational system, and it is my country's official language.

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY PRESIDENTS

HON. SCOTT L. KLUG

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. KLUG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention, and to the attention of my colleagues, that the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP) will mark its 25th Anniversary in 1998. CSSP is the nation's largest multidisciplinary consortium of scientific, engineering and technical societies. It is composed of over 60 federations and societies, representing over 1.4 million scientists, engineers, technologists and educators.

CSSP fosters communication and collaboration among all science and engineering disciplines and develops policy statements on issues of national scope. Through its network of leaders, CSSP facilitates the implementation of those policies.

For 25 years, CSSP has been a leader and a voice of reason. CSSP has played a key role in the health of the S&T enterprise by developing a network of national leaders and serving as an advocate of wise science policy.

CAMPAIGN REFORM AND ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of meaningful campaign finance reform.

I strongly support a thorough investigation of the practices of both political parties, and I want Congress to pass serious reform of the campaign finance system. We must eliminate the corrupting influence of special interest money from our political system and restore the faith of the American people in our public institutions. Neither party can claim total innocence of Washington misdeeds, and I believe the people of North Carolina sent me to Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to serve the public interest. That is what I try to do every day as a United States Representative.

At the start of the 105th Congress, the freshman class agreed that we would work on a bipartisan basis to reform the way that campaigns for public office are funded in this country. Each of us was pleased that the President agreed, and the Speaker of the House agreed, that we needed to pass campaign finance reform legislation during this Congress. While we were not able to bring any legislation to the floor last year, each of us was heartened to hear the Speaker say

that there "would be a very fair bipartisan process of voting when we bring the [campaign finance reform] bills to the floor."

I oppose the way that campaign finance reform legislation has been brought to the floor of this House tonight. The leadership of this body has made a mockery of the democratic process. By bringing these reform bills to the floor under suspension of the rules of the House, these bills are doomed to failure because a simple majority of votes is not sufficient to pass a bill; instead a super-majority of votes (or $\frac{2}{3}$ of Members voting) is needed in order to pass campaign finance reform legislation. A good bill can pass with a simple majority; a bad bill will not pass with a super-majority. The Majority Leadership has made the determination to kill campaign finance reform legislation by making sure that it will not garner enough votes to pass.

The people of this country are discouraged by this type of behavior from this Congress and will not be fooled by this attempt to pass ill-conceived legislation. Rushing these bills through the people's House without the benefit of full and open debate makes a mockery of the democratic process; rushing these bills through without the benefit of open debate only encourages the cynicism of our society.

H.R. 3581, the misnamed "Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act," allows wealthy individuals to contribute even more money, by doubling the current Federal dollar limits on contributions to candidates and tripling the limits on contributions to political parties and total contributions, plus indexing them to inflation. As a result, a wealthy person would be able to contribute \$100,000 more every election cycle. Most of the citizens of this country believe that there is too much money now being spent on political campaigns, and instead of curbing campaign spending, this bill increases the amount.

And, in another cynical attempt to prevent Hispanic citizens from voting, this bill includes a provision to establish a Federal "voter eligibility confirmation system" which allows state and local officials to drop voters from the rolls, solely on the basis of race or an "ethnic-sounding name." At a time in our Nation's history when fewer and fewer people take the time to go to the polls and cast a ballot, we should not further discourage people from voting by intimidating them from even trying to go to the polls.

Many Members of both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate have introduced good campaign reform measures. However, in order to restore the trust and confidence of the American people, a way must be found to bridge differences and pass bipartisan campaign finance reform by the next election. I have co-sponsored the Independent Commission on Campaign Finance Reform Act of 1998. This legislation will establish a bipartisan commission of 12 members and will recommend reforms to the laws that govern Federal elections. I believe that an independent commission provides Congress the best opportunity to overcome the political and legislative impediments that have stymied previous campaign finance reform efforts.

Madam Speaker, the American people deserve a reform of the campaign election system. I hope that we will have the courage to do something meaningful toward that end during the 105th Congress.